

INTELLFAX 7

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INFORMATION REPORT

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO. 25X1X

1. Although television sets had been on sale in Moscow for two years or more prior to May 1950, for a long time it seemed doubtful that there were customers for them since the price was high and the programs were meager. However, there is evidence that, during the period February-April 1950, a number of sets were installed in Moscow homes and regularly, although not daily, programs were televised. It is rumored that by May 1950 there were waiting lists for television receivers and by that date no sets were on view in the big Moscow stores.

Moscow Television Station

2. Television programs are broadcast from the Shabolovski Radio Station. A sketch of the mast and indication of its exact position appear on Attachment A. There can be no doubt that this is the Moscow station for the following reasons:

- All television aerials are directed toward this mast, which towers over the southern part of the town.
- The book entitled Moskva, published by Molodaya Gvardiya in 1948, refers on page 125 to "the lattice-work mast of the Shabolovski Radio Station, where the Moscow television center now functions."
- In a diagram in the Moscow Polytechnical Museum explaining the principles of television broadcasting, the Shabolovski mast is clearly pictured.

3. The Administration of the Studios of the Moscow Television Network is situated at No. 36 Bolshaya Serpukhovskaya Ulitsa, a five-minute walk from the Shabolovski Station. This is a five-story building in an otherwise not very imposing street. There are five receiving television aerials on the roof. The ground floor is occupied by shops. There is no indication as to whether the Administration occupies the whole or only part of the rest of the building. The exact location of the television studios is not known, but they may well be in one of the buildings flanking the mast.

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Programs

6. An authoritative Sov. lecturer, touching on the subject of television programs, recently made the following statements: There are two television stations at present in action in the Soviet Union, those of Moscow and Leningrad. There are three types of programs: studio performances, the telecasting of films, and outside broadcasts. The first two types are regularly used. For the studio performances the lighting has to be extremely powerful, but, in order to televise outdoor or non-studio scenes, a different type of camera is required. The speaker stated that one non-studio broadcast was made last summer (1947) from Moscow's Dynamo Stadium using two cameras, and one or two experimental telecasts have been made from theatres. There are, however, great plans for non-studio telecasts and Soviet television intends to develop this technique greatly. Specimen television programs of both Moscow and Leningrad stations are, as far as Attachment B. It will be noticed that both stations televise programs on four days a week.

Television Sets

7. The set normally on view (although never actually demonstrated) in large Moscow stores during 1948 and 1949 was the Yoskovich TI, a small, upright table model. The advertising literature, proclaimed that the screen measured 14 x 10^{1/2} cm and that its radius of action was 2-4 km from the television station; it offered free installation in the purchaser's home providing this was in Moscow itself.

8. It is understood that this set was first brought out in 1947; it has since yielded its place of precedence to other sets in the television room of the Moscow Polytechnical Museum. All models on view in this museum showed black and white pictures only. No "black" screens similar to those now used in many modern British sets were observed. The chief sets on view at the museum in early 1950 were the following:

a. The Leningrad TI with a screen sized 10 x 13^{1/2} cm. is a television receiver only, with size and shape of a standard 3-4 radio set with screen on the right and speaker on the left.

b. The Leningrad T2 is a 20-tube ultra-short television receiver, combining a radio receiver as well. This is the same shape as the Leningrad TI but larger. The screen measures 13 x 17^{1/2} cm.

c. Another make on the same style as the Leningrad TI has a screen sized 10^{1/2} x 13 cm. This is believed to be the KVZ-41.

d. A "Leningrad" luxury model, 23-tube television set and radio gram plus short-wave receiver stands about four feet high. The television screen measures 13 x 24 cm and the set is said to have been produced in 1949.

9. The Leningrad TI was said to be the popular type of set, and it was implied that the super "Leningrad" was not available to the public.

10. The cost of television receivers has dropped very considerably. Before the price reductions of March 1949, the Yoskovich TI cost 5,000 rubles; it was then reduced to 3,000 rubles. A further price reduction in August 1949 brought the Yoskovich TI down to 1,500 rubles and the main rad TI to 2,000 rubles. Television receivers were not included in the price reductions of March 1949 and prices presumably have not altered since August 1949.

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Aerials

9. A sketch of the standard television receiving aerial appears on Attachment A. Since the beginning of 1950, these have begun to appear on the roofs of Moscow, although they are still comparatively few and far between. On the roof of the Dom Pravitelstva, the immense block of living quarters at the south end of the Kamenny Most in which it is usually supposed that many high ranking officials reside, about nine aerials are visible; an occasional mast can also be seen on other big blocks or on a more modest building. At least two masts are visible on the roofs of the Kremlin buildings. The total number of aerials in Moscow and suburbs almost certainly does not as yet exceed three figures, although new masts continue to appear.

Licenses

10. Licenses for television sets must be obtained from the Administration of Studios at Bolshaya Serpukhovskaya, mentioned in paragraph 3. Those persons who do not register are liable to a fine of 100 rubles.

Television Reception

11. The following is an impression of a portion of a television transmission seen partly on the super "Leningrad" and partly on the Leningrad T2. After an oral tuning signal consisting of a musical refrain repeated, the vision came on with the camera focused for a minute or so on a set in the studio. Then the program was introduced - a theatre ballet company - in the normal film fashion with titles superimposed on the same background. The show, however, appeared to be "live" and not filmed beforehand. The ballet was still in progress three-quarters of an hour later without interruption and probably lasted some time longer. Continuity was maintained by the occasional superimposing of sub-titles at the bottom of the picture. No announcer was used throughout the three-quarters hour of the transmission, nor indeed was a single word spoken, although this is probably not always the case. The reception of this program, which was viewed in the center of Moscow, was marred by some interference from cars and even more interference from Morse transmission. When not interfered with, the picture came through well and the definition, 625 lines, did appear to be better than that from Aleksandr Palace. The picture, however, seemed slightly dark. Comparison of the two transmissions is difficult, because the viewer normally had experience of Aleksandr Palace at extreme range and subject transmission was received within sight of the Moscow mast and about two miles from it.

12. From memory, the picture on the super "Leningrad", apart from definition, seemed on the whole to be inferior to the picture generally demonstrated at the 1947 Radio Olympia. The Leningrad T2 seemed to function well and its picture, although smaller, did not appear to be much inferior to the super "Leningrad". The smaller Leningrad T1 was not seen in action.

Attachments:

A. Tchaikovsky Radio Station and Aerial
B. Summary of Soviet television programs in Moscow and Leningrad

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* [REDACTED] Comment: These prices seem inexpensive compared to the cost of radios.

25X1A ** [REDACTED] Comment: Presumably in Leningrad.

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